Privatisation of inter-State DTC routes

5592. SHRI O. P. KOHLI;

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1461 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1986 and state;

(a) Whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to the news item captioned "800 inter-State DTC routes to be privatised", appearing in the Pioneer of 17th April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Delhi thereto?

THE MINISTER OP STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYT-LER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No final decision in this regard hag been taken.

Declaration of road from Gopalpur to Raipur as National Highway

5593. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to declare the State road from Gopalpur to Raipur in Orissa as national highway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYT-LER): (a) No, Sir There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(Widening of national highway No. 5 between Vijayawada and Ongole

5594. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY;

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister *of* SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

la) whether there is any proposal to widen National Highway No. 5 between Vijayawada and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work is ligely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYT-LER): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to widen National Highway No. 5 from two lanes to four lanes from Chilakaluripet (KM 355.0) to Vijaya-wada (KM 434.15) at an estimated cost of Rs. 293.20 crores with lie assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan.

(c) It is too eariy to indicate the date of completion °f the project.

Inland Water Transport

5595. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether in the wake of environmental and economic considerations, the inland water transport sector has assumed importance; and

<b) if so, what action Government have taken to develop the inland water transportation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP THE MINISTRY OF SURFCAE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a first step of development of inland water transport in the country, the Government have declared three waterways viz. (i) the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from, Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms.) and (iii) the "West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 kms.) alongwith Champakara Canal (14 kms), and Udyogmandal Canal (23 kms.) as National Waterways for their development for inland water transport. The Government have also set up the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in 1986, which is responsible for carrying out various developmental works like dredging, channel marking, etc. in the National Waterways for improving and maintaining its navigability. The IWAI has formulated a detailed policy/strategy for the development and expansion of inland water transport in the country. Under this policy It is planned to develop the National Waterways No. 1 to 3 by providing necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigational aids, bank protection in narrow stretches etc.

Development of National Highways in Guiarat- and Maharashtra

5596. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a), what is the total length of national highways in Gujarat and Maharashtra, district-wise, alongwith their respective route numbers;

(b) what is the total length of roads covered by the national highways in the each district of these States;

(c) whether the development of national highways in each district of Gujarat and Maharashtra has been taken up;

(d) if so, the detais thereof and the amount spent for the purpose during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, district wise in both the States; and

(e) whether the Gujarat and Maharashtra Government have sought additional central funds for the development of national highways?

THE MIINISTER. OF, STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) The information is beiag collected from the respective State Government and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion and improvement of Calcutta and Haldia Por/s

5597. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact:that Govern ment have decided to adopt a compre hensive plan for expansion and improve ment of Calcutta and Haldia ports through private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and *(b)* Pursuant to the Government Policy about privatisation in ports, the follow-' ing areas/activities at Calcutta Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex have already been furnished to private parties on long term basis;

(i) Berth No. 8 along with 35,000 Sq. mtrs. of land at Haldia Dock Complex has been leased out for improvement of facilities and also for management of cargo handling operations at the Berth and the adjacent land; and